

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01194 142047Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
DOTE-00 EB-08 /076 W
-----019652 142056Z /63
P R 142030Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2309
INFO COGUARD ONSAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1194

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: A) STATE 85747; B) STATE 95620; C) PORT OF SPAIN 975;
D) PORT OF SPAIN 1001

1. ON APRIL 10, I CALLED ON ACTING PERM SEC IN MIN EXTAFF
(LENORE DORSET) TO PRESENT NOTE, TEXT OF WHICH WAS
CONTAINED IN REF A. STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY
DECISION BY THE GOTT, I EXPLAINED THAT THE NOTE ADDRESSED
THE THREE POINTS MADE BY FM DONALDSON (REF C) AND SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WE PRE-
SENTED IN JULY, 1977. I DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE FACTORS
LEADING TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF OMEGA TRINIDAD AND SAID THAT THE REQUESTED HISTORICAL
SUMMARY (REF D) WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO PREPARE BUT WOULD BE
PROVIDED TO THE GOTT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THE
MEANWHILE, I HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR
THE GOTT TO AGREE NOW IN PRINCIPLE TO THE EXTENSION
OF OMEGA TRINIDAD ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS AND
DOCUMENTS IN ITS POSSESSION, WITH THE MODALITIES TO
BE WORKED OUT SUBSEQUENTLY. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS AND SHORTAGE
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OF SPARE PARTS WHICH THE OMEGA STATION HERE WAS
EXPERIENCING. MRS. DORSET SAID SHE WOULD PASS THE
FOREGOING INFORMATION ON TO DONALDSON AND WOULD
UNDERTAKE TO GET A RESPONSE ASAP.

2. MRS. DORSET PHONED APRIL 14 TO SAY THAT THE
APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED THAT NO DECISION

ON OMEGA TRINIDAD WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. IN REPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, SHE SAID SHE DID NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF SPARE PARTS OR OTHER NEEDED ITEMS FOR OMEGA OR IN THE GRANTING OF A REASONABLE PERIOD FOR DISMANTLING SHOULD WE BE UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FIRM ASSURANCES TO THAT EFFECT FROM DONALDSON.

3. COMMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE FUTURE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS. CLEARLY WE WILL NOT GET A DECISION OUT OF THE GOTT ON OMEGA UNTIL AFTER THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY HAS BEEN PROVIDED. DEPENDING ON THE PRESS OF BUSINESS, IT COULD TAKE UP TO SEVERAL MORE WEEKS TO GET A DECISION EVEN THEN. WHILE THE GOTT HAS NOT RPT NOT CLOSED THE DOOR TO AN OMEGA EXTENSION, AS A RESULT OF PM WILLIAMS'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT THE SITUATION NOW LOOKS LESS FAVORABLE THAN IT DID SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (INDEED, DONALDSON SAID AS MUCH TO ME EARLIER THIS WEEK). IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS WHAT WILLIAMS IS SEEKING BUT MY HUNCH IS THAT HE LABORS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT THE TEMPORARY STATION WAS NEVER SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO GOTT. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN IF THE EVENTUAL DECISION ON OMEGA IS NEGATIVE, WE EXPECT
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THAT THE GOTT WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOW US WHATEVER TIME IS REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIABLE (APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS) FOR PHASEOUT AND SHUTDOWN.

4. DONALDSON WILL BE IN LONDON, GENEVA, AND PARIS FROM APRIL 14 TO 22. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO PREPARE THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY BY APRIL 24, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST FROM TACTICAL VIEWPOINT TO DELIVER THE SUMMARY ON HIS RETURN FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WILLIAMS. AFTER THIS IS DONE, IT COULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS, OR SEVERAL WEEKS, FOR GOTT TO PREPARE AND DELIVER ITS FORMAL RESPONSE. THUS END OF APRIL OR EARLY MAY IS THE EARLIEST WE COULD REASONABLY EXPECT A DECISION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: MARR, TD, US
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